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information; and

a charge data storage unit for storing thereinto charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation unit;

wherein said reference information corresponds to such
5 information related to the reference, which is produced at
an arbitrary interval in the case that said providing destination
refers to the additional information owned by the information
transmitted to said designated providing destination, or
irrespective of such a fact that said providing destination
10 does not refer to said additional information.

3. An information storing apparatus comprising:

a reception unit for receiving information;

an information storage unit for storing thereinto said
15 received information;

a reference record storage unit for recording such
information related to information which is requested to be
referred among the information stored in said information storage
unit; and

20 a reference control unit for providing information in
response to said request, and also for producing a signal used
to notify a reference of additional information owned by said
information which is requested to be referred.

25 4. An information storing/distributing apparatus
comprising:

a reception unit for receiving information;

an information storage unit for storing therein said received information;

a reference record storage unit for recording such information related to information which is requested to be referred among the information stored in said information storage unit;

a reference control unit for providing information in response to said request, and also for producing a signal used to notify a reference of additional information owned by said information which is requested to be referred;

a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge amount in accordance with additional information owned by said information which is requested to be referred and also said reference information; and

a charge data storage unit for storing therein charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation unit;

wherein said reference information corresponds to such information related to the reference, which is produced at an arbitrary interval in the case that said requesting destination refers to the additional information owned by the information transmitted to said designated requesting destination, or irrespective of such a fact that said requesting destination does not refer to said additional information.

5. An information providing system comprising:
an information storing/distributing apparatus including:
a reception unit for receiving information;

an information storage unit for storing thereinto
said received information;

a reference record storage unit for recording such
information related to information which is requested to be
5 referred among the information stored in said information storage
unit;

a reference control unit for providing information
in response to said request, and also for producing a signal
used to notify a reference of additional information owned
10 by said information which is requested to be referred;

a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge
amount in accordance with additional information owned by said
information which is requested to be referred and also said
reference information; and

15 a charge data storage unit for storing thereinto
charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation
unit;

wherein said reference information corresponds to
such information related to the reference, which is produced
20 at an arbitrary interval in the case that said requesting
destination refers to the additional information owned by the
information transmitted to said designated requesting
destination, or irrespective of such a fact that said requesting
destination does not refer to said additional information;

25 an information producing apparatus for producing
information which is provided via a network to said information
storing/distributing apparatus; and

an information reproducing apparatus for arbitrarily selecting the information saved in said information storing/distributing apparatus via the network to reproduce and display the arbitrarily and selectively received
5 information.

6. An information providing system comprising:
an information distributing apparatus including:

a reception unit for receiving information;

10 an information storage unit for storing thereinto said received information;

a transmission unit for transmitting information stored in said information storage unit to a designated providing destination;

15 a reference information reception unit for receiving reference information transmitted from said providing destination;

a charge calculation unit for calculating a charge amount in accordance with additional information owned by said
20 transmitted information and said received reference information; and

a charge data storage unit for storing thereinto charge amount information calculated by said charge calculation unit;

25 wherein said reference information corresponds to such information related to the reference, which is produced at an arbitrary interval in the case that said providing

destination refers to the additional information owned by the information transmitted to said designated providing destination, or irrespective of such a fact that said providing destination does not refer to said additional information;

5 an information storing apparatus including:

 a reception unit for receiving information;

 an information storage unit for storing therein
said received information;

 a reference record storage unit for recording such
10 information related to information which is requested to be
referred among the information stored in said information storage
unit; and

 a reference control unit for providing information
in response to said request, and also for producing a signal
15 used to notify a reference of additional information owned
by said information which is requested to be referred;

 an information producing apparatus for producing
information which is provided via a network to said information
storing/distributing apparatus; and

20 an information reproducing apparatus for arbitrarily
selecting the information saved in said information
storing/distributing apparatus via the network to reproduce
and display the arbitrarily and selectively received
information.

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